

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for providing secure electronic commerce transactions with multiple merchants comprising:
 - 5 establishing a secure communication link between at least one client computer system and a vendor computer system; and
 - transmitting transaction information between said client and vendor computer systems enabling a user at said client computer system to select and purchase, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a
 - 10 merchant computer system by one or more merchants.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step further comprises:
 - 15 generating a purchase order for said items to be supplied to said user by said one or more merchants, said generating occurring after said user's selection of one or more items for purchase from said merchant computer systems via said vendor computer system.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - 20 obtaining payment from said user;
 - transmitting payment to one or more merchants on behalf of said user;

91/ 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said payment is obtained by a vendor operator of said vendor computer system.

5 5. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of transmitting transaction information further comprises:
monitoring the information exchange between said client computer and said merchant computer system at said vendor computer system to obtain said transaction information.

10 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
modifying responses from said merchant computer system to said client computer at said vendor computer system to route at least a portion of said information exchange through said vendor computer system.

15 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of transmitting transaction information further comprises:
displaying icons corresponding to said merchants at said client computer for user selection; and
providing the merchant list of items from said merchant computer
20 system to said user at said client computer via said vendor computer system, upon user selection of a merchant icon;

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8. A method for performing secure electronic commerce with multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor computer system; and

5 transmitting transaction information between said client and said vendor computer systems enabling a user at said client computer system to obtain, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a plurality of merchant computer systems by one or more merchants.

10 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

generating a purchase order for the selected items to be supplied to said user by said one or more merchants.

15 10. The method of claim 9, wherein a vendor of said vendor computer system forwards payments to said one or more merchants for the supplied items on behalf of said user.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said user makes payment to said vendor for said supplied items.

20 12. The method of claim 9, wherein said vendor computer system is further configured to perform the steps of:

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27 monitoring the information exchange between said client computer and said plurality of merchant computer systems at said vendor computer system to obtain transaction information.

- 5 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
modifying responses from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said client computer at said vendor computer system to route at least a portion of said information exchange through said ~~vendor computer system.~~
- 10 14. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
displaying a merchant icon at said merchants at said client computer for user selection; and
upon user selection of said merchant icon, providing the merchant
- 15 list of items from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said user at said client computer via said vendor computer system.
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